

Date - August 19, 2010

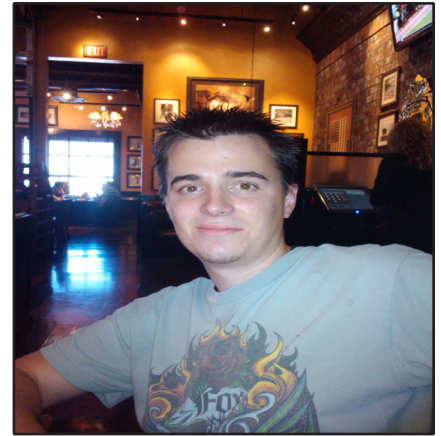
Eliminating Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Costs Much More than it Saves - *The Human Toll*

Name **POWELL KENNEDY**

Residence **ELK GROVE**

Age, family info, married, divorced, any children?

**I am 24 years old, single,
with no children.**



What was your life like before you entered drug treatment? How did your addiction affect your life, your family?

Like many of my generation, I became addicted to heroin at a young age, just 17. It helped me feel as if I fit in. I dropped out of high school. My life became a living nightmare for seven years, all day every day, while I was using heroin. It destroyed my life, as I stole from my parents and others.

What has your life been like since you entered treatment?

Great is the best word to describe it. I have been through many treatment programs, at least eight, that did not work. I don't just go to the clinic to pick up my medicine and leave, I speak to my counselor and share what is going on in my life, I share my feelings. I do as they ask of me. Since I have been in the methadone treatment program, my life has been pretty successful. I attended classes at Cosumnes River College, and I am now enrolled at Universal Technical Institute in their Automotive Mechanic course. I can function normally every day. I have a family that trusts me again and friends that I enjoy. I feel good about myself and what I have accomplished.

What would your life be like without your current drug treatment?

If the methadone clinic closes, I will end up right where I was before I had treatment, in a living nightmare! Eliminating this program will harm me and many others, as well as our communities.

For more information: **www.SaveMedi-CalDrugTreatment.org**
